

NFL players give advice to local kids

By Brenda Bunting
Editor

Wide-eyed and attentive, a room full of young people listened as NFL star Jessie Hester talked about growing up in a rough neighborhood in

Belle Glade. "I came off Seventh Street. I want you to know, if I can do it, you can do it," he told them. Hester, who plays for the Indianapolis Saints, and four other NFL stars who made it to

the big time from the Glades were the featured attraction at Workforce 2000, Community NFL Rap Session on Saturday, Feb. 26 at Palm Beach Community College, Glades Campus.

Also present were Willie Jones with the St. Louis Rams, Johnny Rutledge with the Arizona Cardinals, Jimmy Spencer with the San Diego Chargers and Robert Newkirk with the New Orleans Saints.

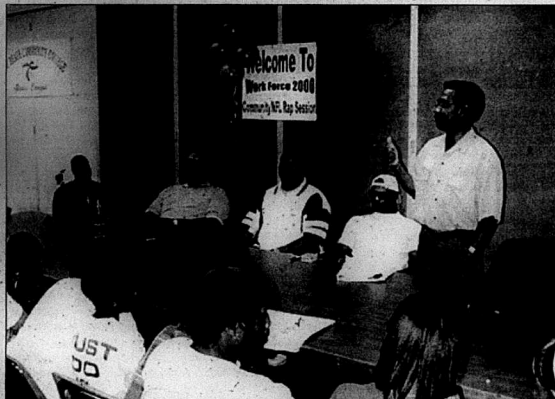
"Sports can be taken away from you," Hester told the kids. "But," he added, "education will last you a lifetime. I was fast. I was able to jump. Today, I can't do any of that. That's why education is important," he said.

Robert Newkirk told the young people they could succeed in life if they worked at it. "I know everybody in this room is strong because you come from the muck, and the muck makes you strong," he said.

Willie Jones said there were plenty of times while seeking his dream he wanted to quit. "But I knew God had blessed me with a talent. My soul couldn't rest unless I gave it my best. We have to be strong enough not to let the streets get to us," he said.

Jimmy Spencer said he was happy to be able to come back to the Glades to talk to local youth. "We all grew up here and we love coming back. It's important that we give back to our community," he said.

Following a question and answer period, the players signed autographs and everyone enjoyed a buffet luncheon.



Palm Beach Community College President Dennis Gallon addresses over 200 participants at the Workforce 2000 event at PBCC Glades on Saturday. The Community NFL Rap Session included several NFL players who made it big from the Glades, including Willie Jones with the St. Louis Rams, Johnny Rutledge with the Arizona Cardinals, Robert Newkirk with the New Orleans Saints, Jessie Hester with the Indianapolis Saints and Jimmy Spencer with the San Diego Chargers.

Four area teachers nominated for Excellence in Education Awards

Four Glades area teachers are among 24 finalists in the Economic Council's William Dwyer Awards for Excellence in Education. They are:

- Deborah Clarke of South Bay, a teacher at Rosenwald Elementary School.
- Maria de los Angeles Silva of Belle Glade, a teacher at Pahokee Middle-Senior High School.
- Carthoda Mann, of Belle Glade, a special education teacher at Glades Central High School.
- Gale Zavala of Wellington, a special education teacher at Gove Elementary School.

Each year, the Economic Council and the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County invite the county's public schools and accredited private schools to participate in the Dwyer Awards program. Teachers throughout the county are nominated by their peers

at the individual schools for consideration as the county's best teacher in one of five categories: elementary school, middle school, senior high school, special and career/community education.

Finalists from each category are chosen by a selection committee composed of Economic Council members, Education Foundation board members, WorldClass Schools Champions and instructors from Florida Atlantic University, Lynn University, Palm Beach Atlantic College and Palm Beach Community College. Finalists are then interviewed and all candidates are evaluated on the basis of professional achievements, community involvement and educational philosophy. The winners will be announced at a banquet Friday, April 7 at the Palm Beach Gardens Marriott.



Father John Mericante, Dr. Marie Duthill, Willie Lawrence and Dr. Carmen Morales gathered for a group photo to celebrate the newly formed partnership between Pahokee Medical Center, Glades General Hospital and the Palm Beach County Health Care District to provide expanded services at the free clinic at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Pahokee. Dr. Morales will see pediatric patients from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Wednesdays, while Dr. Duthill will see adult patients on Thursdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The health care district has agreed to underwrite the cost of providing care. Pahokee Medical Center will provide lab, x-ray and other services at their facility at 183 S. Lake Avenue and Glades General has agreed to provide routine medications that clients couldn't otherwise afford. The clinic is free and open to the public.

Residents object to extended camping at Pahokee Campground

By Tracy Whirls

A group of Pahokee residents, including several campers staying at the Pahokee Campground, appeared at the Pahokee city commission meeting Feb. 22 to voice objections to a proposal to allow campers to extend their stay at the marina from six months to eight months.

Pahokee resident Jo Hatton told the commissioners that after a visit to the marina during which she informally surveyed campers, while many were repeat visitors and had many positive things to say about the campground and Pahokee, "to a man they were all opposed to lengthening the stay."

Ms. Hatton said campers believe that allowing sites to be inhabited for eight months or longer will encourage squatting and encourage people to accumulate possessions on their sites. She also said many of the campers expressed surprise that Pahokee allows campers to rent the sites for six months, unlike other campgrounds which severely limit campers' stays.

Ms. Hatton said she believed it

would be very unwise to consider lengthening campers' stays from the current six-month limit.

"In the long run I think it would be a money-losing proposition and would devalue one of the few assets we have in Pahokee," Ms. Hatton said.

Camper Bill Listin, who's been coming from Michigan for the past eight years to visit the Pahokee campground, told the commissioners that on his way to Pahokee, he and his wife visited two campgrounds that allowed extended stays, and they would not be returning to either.

Mr. Listin said vandalism and disappear were major problems at the campgrounds that offered long term rentals, and he noted that the commission could have problems existing troublesome tenants if longer stays were permitted.

"If you have long term renters, you're going to have rental problems, and you'll chase out a lot of campers like myself," Mr. Listin said. "If they want to be permanent campers, let them buy a house."

See Campground/Page 2

St. Mary's Church partners with others to provide services for migrants

By Tracy Whirls
Associate Editor

It began with parishioners knocking on his door.

"Father, my baby is sick. What do I do?"

For a time, Father John Mericante sent them to the emergency room at Everglades Regional Medical Center. The patients couldn't pay the bills, and after a while the church couldn't afford them either. So the persuasive padre entered an agreement with the hospital and the free clinic at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Pahokee opened Aug. 27, 1994.

"Then we lost the hospital," Father John said. He took his people to Channel 12 and Dr. Tom Sawyer, who was practicing in Miami, volunteered to commute to open the clinic one day a week for two years. Then, two weeks ago, Dr. Sawyer returned to Orlando, leaving the clinic, which serves approximately 400 migrant

families in the area, without a doctor again.

Father John got on the phone, looking for a way to partner with other local agencies to provide the services "this people" needed. Now the church is partnering with the Pahokee Medical Center and Glades General Hospital, with the support of the Palm Beach County Health Care District, to provide clinic services at the church Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

"I'll provide space" to anyone willing to offer services to my people," said Father John, announcing plans to build an addition to the clinic, currently housed in the church's fellowship hall, to make more room for a second examination room as well as an outpatient surgical/treatment suite.

The priest hit the road Friday, seeking donors to finance the anticipated \$42,000 for the expansion.

See Father John/Pg. 2

Speak Out

715 bridge to close

The State Road 715 bridge over the I-14 (Hillabero) Canal is chosen to be closed to traffic on Wednesday, March 8. Florida Department of Transportation officials said the bridge will be closed for approximately seven months and will be completely replaced during this time.

North-South traffic on SR 715 will be detoured at Hooker highway and NW Avenue L over to SR 15 and SR 50 during the construction period. Westbound traffic from SR 715 will be permitted on North and South West Canal Streets, but these streets will be closed to eastbound traffic at SR 715. The entire project is expected to last over 20 months.

Primary election is March 14

Florida residents will go to the polls on Tuesday, March 14 to vote in the official Presidential Preference Primary for the Non-partisan Candidates.

Voters must be residents to vote a primary ID with their signatures and they go to the polls to vote on election day. Acceptable forms of ID are FL Driver's License, FL Identification Card, U.S. Passport, Employees ID badges, Buyers' Club ID cards (such as Costco, Sam's Club or Price Club), Debit/Credit cards, Military ID cards, student ID cards, etc. However, if a citizen does not have any of the above, they will still be allowed to vote after completing an affidavit. The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Voters should check their voter registration card to see where they should go to vote.

What's coming to Belle Glade?

Residents are asking, "What's coming to Belle Glade where the old Everglades Pediatric Center was on North Main Street, next to Lake Hardware?" According to the Planning and Building Dept. in Belle Glade it will be a Walgreens store. Tentative opening is several months away.

Lake Level

Feb. 22

15.53 ft.

above

sea level

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A quarter of a century of commitment...These members of the Woman's Club of Belle Glade were presented certificates for having served in the Woman's Club for at least 25 years. Shown, from left, are: Gloria Swager, Jean Day, Sandra Chamblée, JoAnn Royal and Virginia Anderson. Also awarded certificates were Frances Murphy Bortman, Vivian Pate and Nancy Carpenter. The Club meets once a month at the Drawbridge Cane in Belle Glade.

Pahokee Commission debates permanent campers at Pahokee Campground...from Page 1

these and pay taxes."

Fellow camper Ray Coddeman of Beaufort, N.C. who has been visiting Pahokee for the last four years noted that the campers bring a lot of money into Pahokee.

Pahokee resident Hugh Branch said that the commission had discussed extending the stay at the campground less than six months ago, and that extending campers' stays at the marina any longer than six months would defeat the purpose of having the campground and marina.

"If our goal is to fill up the campground, we need to work to bring people here, not fill it up with people who are already here," Mr. Branch said. "We need new money in Pahokee and we need to look at how we can fill up the campground."

Commissioner Keith Babb, who had proposed reserving ten sites for extended camping, as well as for local residents interested in camping at the marina, said offering the extended stay would allow more campers to be occupied.

He said the commission has been careful in trying to draft the proposal to address concerns.

"I don't want it to be a mobile home park. People can't get their mail there, they can't get their kids picked up by the bus there, they have to have some other permanent residence," Commissioner Babb said.

He added that the commission has also discussed charging those who request an extended stay at the campground a premium price for the privilege, and would require

that local campers leave the facility when out of towners reserve sites.

"It doesn't make sense to turn away those dollars when it's not full," Commissioner Babb said.

Some residents questioned why local residents would want to rent a campsite at the campground if they reside in Pahokee.

Commissioner Henry Crawford, who has been residing at the marina since his home burned down last September, said he would not support allowing campers to remain indefinitely.

Commissioner Pete Moore encouraged citizens to let their opinions be known. "We went through this about a year ago and personally I thought we had it resolved."

Father John...continued from Page 1

If his previous success is any indication, he will get it.

"When I visit other churches, if they don't give me money, they give me things," Father John said, noting that numerous area churches contribute diapers, formula, clothing and other items for his parishioners.

They also send volunteers. Dr. Crawford and his wife volunteered their services after one of the members of his parish at St. Joan of Arc asked him to give Father John a call. Veronica Arellano of Wellington, a Florida Atlantic University student, volunteered to come work at the church as a translator after Father John paid a visit to her church, St. Rita's in Wellington.

"I wanted to join the Peace Corps or do some other kind of missionary work, and Father John said there's missionary work you can do right here in your own back yard," she explained.

It was the same recruitment speech the Bishop had used to recruit the Father to come to Pahokee.

A native of Winchester, Mass., near Boston, Father John said he decided to become a priest at six years old.

"You know how you play games when you're a kid—one day you pretend you're a police man, the next you pretend to be something else? One day I decided I wanted to be a priest—I always had a love of God, love of neighbor, always took up for the underdog. The next day, he said, 'Let's be something else,' and I said, 'No, I like this.'"

Father John said his own father, who was employed by Ford Motor Company took his son to bed for about a week when his son decided to enter the seminary, disappointed that he

wouldn't be marrying and fathering his own children some day. His dad came around, Father John said, when he was sent to Rome to study for four years, and he could brag about his son at the Vatican.

While in Rome, he met a group of Chilean priests, who told him he could become a pastor within a day in Chile, a process that could take 20 years in Boston. He spent four years in Chile, when the Bishop approached him to come to Pahokee.

"They needed a Spanish speaking priest. He told me I could find parishes with as many needs as those in Chile in my own backyard—my work in Chile prepared me for what I found here in my own country."

When Father John came to Pahokee in September, 1993, there were 24 Phillipino families who left when the hospital closed.

Many of the few "Anglo" parishioners that were left died, and their children had moved away because there were no jobs for them in the area. "It's the volume of Hispanic families that keep Pahokee open," Father John explained. Of his parishioners, 17 "Anglo" families remain. He serves approximately 400 Hispanic families, many with six children, during the season and half that many during the off-season.

Father John said he has had some success in encouraging the migrant families to allow the mothers and younger children to remain year round, to allow the children to remain in school while the fathers and older sons travel to work crops in other states.

His is a full-service church, all the more remarkable be-

cause Father John runs the parish alone.

"We used to have a seminar, but he went on to the next step, becoming a deacon before becoming a priest. We used to have three nuns, and them I really miss because they ran a daycare and an afterschool program," Father John said, adding that he would love to resume those services, but whoever volunteered to run the programs would have to be "as dedicated as a nun," to be able to offer the service five days a week.

Besides seeing to the medical needs of his parishioners, he helps them with SHIP and FHA housing applications, to enable them to provide permanent housing for their families. He coordinates efforts with Friends of America Association to provide free residency and citizenship application services to ensure that the families have all their proper paperwork.

He tries to make sure the children get their homework done, offering his assistance to children many of whose parents can't read or write in their native Spanish.

"They come to me with all their papers—if they need help paying an electric bill, to translate documents. They trust me," Father John said, "And I actually get energized from all that."

He wants to help them become part of the mainstream of American life and he's quick to point out that his parishioners represent the future of the church—projections indicate that Hispanics will be the largest minority population in the United States by 2013.

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Employers in the Glades encouraged to return insurance survey questionnaire

The Lake Okechobee Rural Health Network, a not-for-profit organization based in South Bay, is asking Glades employers to watch for an insurance survey questionnaire that has recently been mailed to them.

Andrew Behrman, CEO of the network, said filling out the survey and returning it to the Lake Okechobee Rural Health Network is vital for those who want to see good health care for everyone in the Glades.

"The network is looking into developing our own PPO, which is a more flexible insurance program that allows you to use any provider in our large network," said Behrman. "The difference here is that this network would be locally controlled and operated, with direct input from you, the employers. We believe we can provide this at a reasonable cost to you and your employ-

ees," he said.

"Health care costs continue to rise, and employers who are already paying a portion of the coverage for their employees know how frustrating it can be. In fact, a large portion of local employers surrounding the lake don't offer employee insurance, mostly due to the high costs, and the lack of a local provider network, with a decent safety network surrounding us," says Behrman.

The survey only has four questions and should take only one or two minutes to complete.

The questions include whether or not the employer currently provides any insurance product for employees and is it an HMO, PPO, POS or other and what the employer's contribution is.

If an employer is not providing insurance would they be interested in assisting the Lake Okechobee Rural Health Network, Inc. in forming a PPO-type arrangement, if costs were minimized?

What is the total number of potential covered lives in your organization and what particular health benefits are mandatory in a health plan that would benefit employees (i.e. prescription, emergency room, mental health, etc.)?

For more information about the survey or the Lake Okechobee Rural Health Network, contact Mr. Behrman at 993-4221.

Is food irradiation progress, or one more thing to worry about?



Katrina Elkin
Contributing Editor

Irradiation is the process of exposing food to low-level radiation to kill bacteria, mold and insects. Some studies have indicated it can kill up to 99 percent of the bacteria that causes food-related illness.

Millions of Americans get sick each year from eating food that was not properly washed or safely prepared, so some health officials promote irradiation as a way to increase public safety. Irradiation also helps keep food from spoiling, which means vegetables can be stored

longer.

The process has won approval from the American Medical Association and the World Health Organization.

But, not everyone is convinced that irradiation is safe. Food irradiation has been studied since the 1950s, but no long term studies have been conducted on humans who consumed irradiated foods.

Irradiation, like cooking, destroys some vitamins in foods.

Some consumer advocates object to irradiation because they are afraid that food processors will rely on it instead of promoting safe food handling practices.

Oddly, irradiated foods are more common in Europe, which bans other types of technological improvements. For example, some European countries don't allow genetically enhanced foods to be imported.

Yet irradiated milk was common in German supermarkets 20 years ago.

Like so many food choices, this is a decision you are going to have to make for yourself.

The USDA requires irradiated food sold in supermarkets to be labeled as such.

Even if you do decide to buy irradiated food, it is still important to handle food properly. That means using a disinfectant to clean any surfaces used to prepare food.

It also means cleaning knives and other utensils. You don't want to transfer bacteria from your other foods to your irradiated foods. The radiation doesn't stop food from being contaminated AFTER the irradiation process.

Eat right and obesity will take flight

With the arrival of March so comes National Nutrition Month, which is a good time to remind all that you can eat right and shed those extra pounds which lead to obesity.

Health professionals have found that obesity is growing at an alarming rate in the United States, especially in our children. But, with proper diet and exercise, this trend can be

reversed, which is the point of this year's theme, "Food and Fitness: A Recipe for a Lifetime."

Jo Ann Donnelly, RD, LDN Senior Nutritionist and Coordinator of National Nutrition Month for the Palm Beach County Health Department said, "It is my hope that through this year's campaign we can reinforce the importance of proper nutrition and

physical activity. These two components are the keys to the healthy lifestyle that all of us should strive to attain."

A good way to start learning about nutrition, according to Donnelly, is through reading. She recommends books that have an underlying theme of good nutrition as a first step in educating children. Some of these books include, "The

Berenstein Bears, and *No More Junk Food*" by Stan Berenstain, and "Green Eggs and Ham" by Dr. Seuss. "Local libraries and book stores are an excellent source for good reading material on health and nutrition," added Donnelly.

Physical activity doesn't have to be a burden either, mentioned Donnelly. By taking 10 minutes and doing moderate

exercise three times a day or 30 minutes on most days of the week, people can burn off many unwanted calories and be on their way to maintaining a healthier weight.

The Health Department's Nutrition Division is sponsoring many excellent programs throughout the month of March. For information call 561/653-2088.

Sunspots/From Page 1 Euphine's Morris Scholarship Gospel Explosion

The Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. is sponsoring a Euphine's Morris Scholarship Gospel Explosion on Sunday, March 12 at 3 p.m. at the Inspiration Church of God in South Bay.

Church choirs and soloists who wish to participate should contact Sharon Brown at 996-3331, Joan Bane, 996-6343 or Shirley Morris at 996-9435.

Applications for the Euphine's Morris Scholarship are available at Glades Central and Pahokee High School in the Career Center for any young lady interested in attending the Dudley Cosmetology School or any cosmetology school.

Membership dinner

There will be a membership dinner for those interested in joining the Belle Glade Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation on Thursday, March 2 at 6 p.m. The event will be held at the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative on the Fourth Floor. Socializing will begin at 6 p.m. and a dinner of barbecued chicken or ribs will be served at 7 p.m. At 8 p.m. there will be a live auction.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the local chapter. Tickets are \$40 for one person, \$50 for a couple. Sponsorships for the event are \$250.

For tickets call Sonny Stein at 996-2617 or 992-1820.

NCAA Game Breaker 2000 Tournament

The Glades Festival of Afro Arts presents its first Game Breaker 2000 Tournament.

The committee is seeking the best Sony Playstation gamers to participate. The tournament will take place on Saturday, March 18. Registration fee is \$20 and the deadline to enter the competition is March 11.

For information or to register contact Albert Harper III at 924-5282 or Lawanda Everett at 924-3126.

Census/Bureau Road Tour

The Palm Beach County Complete Count Committee has undertaken a public education campaign for Census 2000. The Road Tour will be in the Glades on March 6, 13 and 15. On March 6 at 6 p.m. the will be at the Belle Glade Branch

Library, 530 S. Main Street. On March 13 at 6 p.m. they will be at the Loula V. York Branch Library, 525 S. Main Street. On March 15 at 6 p.m. they will be at the Clarence Anthony Library, 375 S.W. 2nd Avenue, South Bay.

Breakfast for 100 Black Men

One Hundred Black Men of Palm Beach County, Inc. is sponsoring a breakfast meeting on Saturday, March 4 at 9 a.m. at Kountry Kitchen in Belle Glade. The organization is committed to helping minority youth and providing positive black male role models.

Those wishing to attend the meeting should RSVP to 996-6828.

Booth space available for Black Gold Jubilee

Vendor booth applications are now being accepted for the 2000 Black Gold Jubilee to be held April 15. Applications may be obtained from the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce or by calling 993-3343.

The deadline for applications is March 31, 2000.

Class of 1981 event

The Class of 1981 from Glades Central will host "Pajama Jam" on Saturday, March 18 at Club 21, 1533 N.W. Avenue L, Belle Glade. The event begins at 9 p.m. and admission is \$5.

The class will also be hosting a meeting on Sunday, March 5 at Pioneer Park at 4 p.m. for class members and everyone is invited.

For more information, call 996-4313.

Good Shepherd to hold fundraiser BBQ

The Good Shepherd Church of God youth are hosting a fund raiser on Saturday, March 4.

They will sell barbecued chicken, cole slaw, baked beans, a roll and dessert. For tickets or more information please call 924-7284.

Before Care program at Boys & Girls Club

The Belle Glade Teen Club announces the start up of a Middle School Before Care program. Staff members will be available to provide a safe, positive place for children at the Teen Club located at Lake Shore Civic Center for students ages 11-14.

Car will be provided from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and the cost is \$10 per child, which includes a free trip to the Rapids.

For additional information, please contact Ken Funderburk at 992-5399.

Children's Day 2000 in the Glades

In conjunction with the "Weed of the Young Child" April 9-15, there will be a Children's Day 2000 in the Glades on Friday, April 14 at Rardin Park in Belle Glade.

Special guest will be Ronald McDonald and a live concert performance by "Ms. Maggie. There will also be a bounce house and games for the children.

Gospel group to perform at Miracle Temple

The Gibbs Family, a Native American Southern Gospel Group, will perform at Miracle Temple, 104 S.W. 16th Street (SR 715), March 11 at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Red Cross needs volunteers

The American Red Cross Glades Area Branch is looking for residents of the Glades area to get involved with various programs and services offered by the American Red Cross.

There will be a new Volunteer Orientation held on Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2000 at 6 p.m. at the office, located at 195 U.S. Highway 27, South in South Bay.

For more information contact your local American Red Cross at 992-9793.

Bingo every Tuesday

The Pahokee Elks Lodge, East Main Street, offers bingo every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. at the Lodge.

For more information call the Lodge.

Tent Revival

The New Resurrection Institutional Baptist Church and Family Worship Center is holding Tent Ministry Revival Services on Saturday, March 4 through Monday, March 6.

On March 4 the event will open with a singing extravaganza featuring the Sensational Rising Stars of Miami and other groups and choirs from the Dade, Broward, and surrounding areas.

The tent ministry will continue indefinitely. The event will be held at the

New Resurrection Institutional Baptist Church, 565 South Barfield Highway, Pahokee.

For more information for transport to the revival, call 924-7258.

Free and reduced meals for children

The Wee Care Child Development Center offers free or reduced lunches to children at their center located at 209 S.W. 10th Street, Belle Glade.

The program is offered through the U.S. Department

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OPINION PAGE

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Bridge closing

"I see where they are going to be closing the 715 Bridge in Chosen. Boy, oh, boy, why do they always do these things during season instead of waiting until summer. This is going to be very inconvenient for everyone."

Thanks to Parks & Recreation

"I just wanted to say thank you to the Belle Glade Parks and Recreation Department for getting the lights fixed at Lyons Park. Many of us enjoy walking around the park in the evening, or playing tennis and we appreciate the lights. Thanks!"

Looking back 27 years



New members were welcomed into the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce in 1972. We don't know who these guys are, do you? If you recognize any of these faces, give us a call at 996-4404. We'll run their names in the next available edition.

Letters to the Editor

Open letter to the community from Pahokee Elementary Principal

Dear Community:

The purpose of this letter is to request your cooperation to help keep our students safe.

The construction on Phase II has begun. As a result, there is a lot of traffic, heavy equipment and vehicles on East Main Place (street in front of the school).

Please encourage your children to come on school grounds at the designated areas only. Additionally, we are requesting that children being driven to school and picked up from school by cars be dropped off and picked up in the parent drop off/pick up area only (Fern Street).

Arrival/dismissal procedures must be followed by all students, parents and faculty to ensure the safety of our children.

Students should not arrive at school prior to 8 a.m. (The City of Pahokee Parks and Recreation Department provides before school care, from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. for parents needing care prior to 8 a.m. For additional information please call 924-2972. The applications are available at the school.)

Thank you for your cooperation in helping ensure the students' safety at Pahokee Elementary. Please call if you have input that will improve the safety issues at our school.

Sincerely,
Betty F. Lawson,
Principal

The Sun

417 NW 16th Street, Suite 6
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The Sun (USPS 005026) is published weekly for \$15.00 plus tax, per year in Palm Beach County; \$30.00 plus tax, per year out-of-county, by Independent Newspapers Inc. 417 N.W. 16th Street, Suite 6, Belle Glade, Florida 33430. Periodicals postage paid at Belle Glade, FL.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to **The Sun**
P.O. Box 2226, Belle Glade, FL 33430



In Florida, it pays to be bilingual

By Aaron Hoover
University of Florida News

Florida Hispanics who are fluent in Spanish and English earn significantly higher incomes and are less likely to live in poverty than those who speak only English, according to a new study.

The study, a joint project of the University of Florida, the University of Miami and the Florida Department of Education, was released February 1, 2000 in a monograph entitled "Creating Florida's Multilingual, Global Workforce." It found that, for Hispanics, being bilingual offers advantages throughout the state, from the Panhandle to the Keys. In Miami, where the advantages were particularly pronounced, the study found that fully bilingual Hispanics earn nearly \$7,000 per year more than their English-only counterparts.

"Think about what \$7,000 means in a household of two or more wage earners - over a couple of years, the earning differences really add up," said Sandra Fradd, co-author of the study and a University of Miami professor and program chair of teaching English to speakers of other languages.

Fradd, also a scientist at UF's department of communications and disorders and Institute for the Advanced Study of the Communication Process, said the study highlights the importance of bilingual education.

"The public is often opposed to bilingual education because people are unaware of the economic importance of being able to communicate in more than one language," she said. "Such opposition may not make good sense when the financial benefits of being bilingual are considered."

The study examined income levels for bilingual and English-only Hispanics in 10 metropolitan areas nationwide with high percentages of Hispanic immigrants. Fradd and co-author Thomas Boswell, a professor of geography and regional studies at the University of Miami,

found that in Miami, Jersey City, N.J., and San Antonio, bilingual Hispanics earn more than those who communicate only in English. It also found that bilingualism "had advantages for older employees in some of the other cities."

Although the Miami population is primarily from Cuba, the Jersey City area has a mixed Hispanic population from the Caribbean and Central and South America. In San Antonio, Hispanics have a predominantly Mexican background.

"These findings show that this is not a 'Cuban thing,'" Fradd said. "It's about economic development, not ethnicity."

The study calls into question English-only initiatives in Florida and elsewhere, Fradd said. During the past several decades, many states including Florida have passed laws declaring English the official language. Although such laws are largely symbolic, they often are accompanied by more forceful English-only initiatives. For example, California's Proposition 227, approved by the state's voters in 1998, requires students in the state's public schools to be taught "overwhelmingly in English." The lack of public education in bilingualism means that corporations cannot find enough fully proficient bilingual employees, Fradd said. As a result, business organizations such as the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce have recently launched work force initiatives to try to add to the supply of bilingual employees.

"Rather than cutting bilingual programs, we can improve them at all levels so that all students, not just Hispanic children, can enjoy advantages of bilingualism," Fradd said.

"Creating Florida's Multilingual Global Workforce" will be distributed to all public schools in the state as part of an initiative to promote greater understanding of the advantages of bilingualism and biliteracy and to promote collaboration among education, business and government in preparing students for 21st-century work place requirements.

Editors note: The POLICE NEWS in this newspaper lists arrests, not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Arrested persons who later are found not guilty or have had the charges against them dropped are welcome to let us know. We will confirm the information and print it.



About letters

To voice your opinion about Glades issues, or to respond favorably or unfavorably to articles printed in the paper, we encourage you to write us a letter. Send to:
The Sun

417 N.W. 16th Street #6, Belle Glade, FL 33430



Entertaining ventriloquist...Rev. David Day, pastor at the Community United Methodist Church in Belle Glade and "Evergreen" were the guests at the February meeting of the Woman's Club of Belle Glade. Miss Evergreen entertained the group with one-liners about "You know you're getting older when..." stories.

Rip currents claim many lives in Florida



Mike Lyons

If I asked you what type of Florida weather claims the most lives each year, chances are you'd say hurricanes or tornadoes. Or you might suggest lightning, since it is such a common occurrence during the summer months.

All are good guesses but all are wrong. The surprising answer is rip currents, a phenomenon that annually claims more lives in Florida than hurricanes, tornadoes and lightning combined.

Rip currents—sometimes called rip tides—affect most of the surf areas along Florida's Atlantic and Gulf coasts. In the last 10 years, rip currents have claimed over 200 lives, including 16 along our coastline.

A rip current is a strong surface current of water usually flowing from inside the sand bar into deeper water. Rip cur-

rents become dangerous when winds greater than 30 miles an hour are blowing directly onshore, or when large waves generated by storms far at sea move into the surf zone.

Most rip current deaths occur when people panic and try to swim directly toward the shore against the current. Typically, the swimmer becomes exhausted and drowns.

Even the strongest swimmer cannot swim against the rip current, and even people standing in the ocean water are sometimes powerless to walk against a rip current.

So, how does one escape a rip current? Experts suggest that you swim parallel to the beach until you are well out of the current. Or, float with the current beyond the breakers where the rip current is weaker.

Obviously the best solution is to avoid rip currents entirely. You can do that by swimming at a beach with lifeguards and heeding the advice of the beach patrol.

Most lifeguards can recognize a rip current from the beach.

They look for a brown-colored streak, foam or a seaweed plume extending seaward from the breakers. And while certain weather patterns are more likely to create rip currents, semi-permanent rip currents

often form near piers and jetties.

Rip currents can occur at any time of the year but the majority of deaths in Florida happen from March through August. That is the period when we are most likely to head to the beach and it is the time when weather conditions are most favorable.

Most victims of rip currents are tourists, folks who are unfamiliar with surf conditions. However, local residents have also been victims.

Miami-Dade and Volusia counties have recorded the most rip current deaths in recent years. Thirty people have drowned in Miami-Dade county surf, while 29 people lost their lives in Volusia county over the last 10 years.

Along our coastline, 10 people have drowned in Palm Beach County, with three victims in Martin County, two in St. Lucie County and one in Indian River County.

Last year, rip currents claimed 9 lives in Florida, while hurricanes, tornadoes and lightning killed 6 people.

Florida's most deadly weather-related hazard is rip currents. An often surprising fact to many.

(Mike Lyons is the chief weather forecaster for WPBF-TV.)

Arrest Blotters

Editor's note: The police news on this page lists arrests, not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Arrested persons who later are found not guilty or have had the charges against them dropped are welcome to let us know. We will confirm the information and print it.

BELLE GLADE

The Belle Glade Police Department handled 611 complaints and gave 72 traffic citations the week of February 21-27.

Those arrested included:

February 21 - Jose Ayala, 30, domestic battery; **Jessie Lee Simmons**, 25, burglary and grand theft; **Arthur Baynes**, 25, battery; **Julie Bramletti**, 25, possession of marijuana under 20 grams; possession of narcotic paraphernalia; **Jackie Abercrombie**, 21, grand theft auto; **Juvenile**, 14, warrant for burglary and auto burglary.

February 22 - Juvenile, 17, grand theft auto; **Juvenile**, 15, grand theft; **Juvenile**, 16, grand theft and resisting arrest without violence.

February 23 - Alphenia Ross, 39, stalking; **Jennie Wynne**, 37, battery on a law enforcement officer, resisting arrest with violence, possession of narcotic paraphernalia and possession of marijuana under 20 grams; **Anthony Thompson**, 32, felony contempt of court, failure to appear in court to pay a traffic fine and violation of probation; **Jesse Garcia**, 18, three counts of violation of probation, and escape.

February 24 - Juvenile, 15, auto burglary, and grand theft; **Juvenile**, 16, auto burglary and grand theft; **Juvenile**, 17, auto burglary and grand theft; **Ruth Chambers**, 18, grand theft; **Juvenile**, 17, battery and obstructing an officer without violence; **Angela James**, 37, domestic battery.

February 25 - Linda Kellam, 38, failure to appear on charges of trespassing and disorderly intoxication; **Charlie Luesi**, 31, aggravated battery with a deadly weapon; **Juvenile**, 15, grand theft auto, obstruction by a disguised person and attempted escape; **Ulysses Thompson**, 30, resisting arrest without violence; **Willie Bush**, 23, armed robbery, resisting arrest without violence, depriving a law enforcement officer of protection and battery on a law enforcement officer.

February 26 - David Lee Bush, 31, strong arm robbery and petty theft; **Barbara Brown**, 42, resisting an officer without violence and inciting a riot; **Malcolm Holland**, 25, battery on a law enforcement officer and inciting a riot; **Juvenile**, 16, conspiracy to commit grand theft auto; **Willie Canty Jr.**, 20, strong arm robbery and petty theft; **Charles Johnson**, 22, robbery with a weapon.

February 27 - Daniel Villanueva, 33, possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana under 20 grams and resisting arrest with violence; **Jose Miguel Chaparro**, 40, resisting arrest with violence and trespassing after warning.

PAHOKEE

The Pahokee Police Department handled 156 calls, issued 18 traffic citations and made 13 arrests the week of February 21-27.

Those arrested included:

February 21 - No arrests made.

February 22 - Demond Watson, 21, possession of cocaine.

February 23 - Juvenile, 16, aggravated battery, obstructing and opposing an officer and criminal mischief; **Juvenile**, 14, battery and criminal gang activities; **Juvenile**, 17, aggravated battery and criminal mischief; **Jermaine Strickland**, 20, domestic battery.

February 24 - Juvenile, 15, aggravated battery.

February 25 - Gregory Leon Hamilton, 24, warrant for failure to appear in court; **George Baker**, 43, retail theft; **Alfred Wimberly**, 23, burglary of a dwelling and battery.

February 26 - Ignacio Corona, 18, possession of marijuana under 20 grams; **Harold Zinn**, 35, burglary to an occupied dwelling, armed burglary and battery; **Tony Lee Kinsler**, 22, aggravated child abuse and corruption by threat to a public servant.

February 27 - Roy Craddock, 43, warrant for failure to appear in court.

SOUTH BAY

The South Bay Police Department made 8 arrests the week of February 20-26.

Those arrested included:

February 20 - No arrests made.

February 21 - Henry Green, 41, possession of drug paraphernalia; **Nathaniel Adams**, 19, warrant for possession of cocaine and possession of marijuana.

February 22 - Joe T. McDonald, 28, violation of the open container law; **Tekeyo Lumpkin**, 21, obstruction.

February 23 - Roosevelt Smith Jr., 45, warrant for violation of probation and battery.

February 24 - No arrests made.

February 25 - Angel Villatoro, 20, possession of marijuana under 20 grams; **Miguel A. Vasquez**, 23, possession of marijuana under 20 grams; **Juvenile**, 14, theft.

February 26 - No arrests made.

PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office made 6 arrests the week of February 21-27.

Those arrested included:

February 21 - No arrests made.

February 22 - No arrests made.

February 23 - Juvenile, 15, battery and criminal gang activity; **Juvenile**, 17, aggravated battery, obstruction and criminal mischief.

February 24 - Arthur Lee McCloud, capital sexual battery.

February 25 - Juvenile, 15, grand theft of a motor vehicle, attempted escape and obstruction by a disguised person.

February 26 - Torry Lee Kinsler, no Florida driver's license, fraud, violation of a restriction and aggravated child abuse; **Jose Mendez**, driving while under the influence.

February 27 - Juvenile, 17, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and criminal mischief.

CRIME STOPPERS



Earl White

Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County, Inc., is asking citizens to help locate Earl

White who is wanted for robbery with a deadly weapon and aggravated battery with a deadly weapon. He is also wanted for failure to appear on charges of driving while his license was suspended and for permitting an unauthorized person to drive.

White is a black male, 5'10" tall, and weighs 195 pounds.

He has black hair and brown eyes and tattoos on his left and right arm and on his chest. His date of birth is February 6,

1962. His last known address was 109 West 15th Court, Rivera Beach. His Social Security number is unknown and his last occupation is also unknown. His warrant was active as of February 22, 2000.

If you know the whereabouts of Earl White or anyone involved in a serious crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-458-8477. You can remain anonymous and still receive a cash reward if your tip leads to an arrest.

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Proving that "a mime is a terrible thing to waste," this group of National Honor Society members from Glades Day perform each year at the Very Special Arts West Festival held at Palm Beach Community College's Dolly Hand Center. They are, Angela Gonzalez, Ashley Veale, Matt Prescott, Kristin Hutton, Nathan Edwards, Josh Kannel, Natalie Alvarez, Emily Reese and Becky Outz. (Photo by Tracy Whirls)

Cat Talk

from Gove Elementary



Update from P.T.O.

The "penny drive" is going very well. Both students and teachers are very excited about this "fun" fund-raiser. Third grade is in the lead. They have started a second bottle. According to third grade teachers, the secret is to remind the students to bring in their pennies daily. The winning grade will receive an ice-cream party on Friday, March 3 at 1 p.m. On behalf of PTO we thank all of the students, parents, teachers and Bank of Belle Glade for making this fund-raiser a great success. We also want to thank all of those who supported our lolly-gram fund-raiser. We made \$150.

Florida KidCare

Through Florida KidCare the state of Florida offers health insurance for children ages birth through 18. It includes four different programs. Those who are interested may apply for this no-cost or low cost insurance by calling 930-0035 or by visiting the school nurse.

Upcoming Events

- 3/2 - PTO at 6:30 p.m.
- 3/6-9 - FCAT grades 3,4,5, and 6.
- 3/9 - SAC at 6:30 p.m.

Quantum grants over 1 million for Palm Beach County Children

The Quantum Foundation announces a \$550,000 grant to Florida Atlantic University for the expansion of the School-Based Community Wellness Centers. The purpose of these centers is to improve access to health care for residents in medically underserved communities. Services, begun by a January 1999 Quantum grant, are now provided at five school health centers. This grant will open a sixth center at West Gate Elementary in early March. Services at these centers are provided two nights a week from 4-9 p.m. and on Saturdays and include the following: immunizations, diagnosis and treatment of common health problems and chronic disease problems, health education, screenings for vision, hearing, sickle cell, sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis and nutritional problems. In addition assistance with applying for and obtaining public and private health insurance is available.

Junior Achievement will receive a three-year grant for its program, "Building Achievement Through Sports and Entertainment," (BASE). This program's focus is to capture the attention and interest of young people in their middle and

early high school years and help them focus on the myriad of opportunities available to them if they continue in school and develop workforce skills. The program uses young people's interest in sports and entertainment as a catalyst. The program focus is on realistic career opportunities available to students in the sports and entertainment, rather than the remote possibility of becoming a "star" professional athlete or entertainer. The Wall Street Journal has praised the program as "Turning Hoop Dreams into Real Career Options." The goals are to build awareness about sports and entertainment business concepts, show how business concepts relate to the consumer, the entertainer and athlete, expose the different career options available in sports and entertainment, learn how to take business concepts and build an event, and ensure that students have fun learning about various sports and entertainment careers through sound curriculum and "hands on" activities and experiences. Some of the specific career opportunities highlighted by the program include marketing, merchandising, security, coaching, sports medicine, event manage-

ment, facilities management, ticketing, journalism and broadcasting.

Quantum Bridge to Success Program is a \$275,000 grant to the School District of Palm Beach County through the South Florida Annenberg Challenge. This program is a model which addresses the needs of the "whole child" and will begin at three Palm Beach County Public Schools: Jefferson Davis Middle School, Berkshire Elementary School and Kirk Lane Elementary School. Specifically, the model uses an interdisciplinary approach in identifying the strengths and weakness of children and mobilizing the necessary academic, health and social service supports for children. The interdisciplinary team consists of guidance counselors, psychologists, school nurses, Title I liaisons, principals and, of course, teachers. The goal of the model is to find out what is going on in the lives of children and providing those interventions that promote good health and academic achievement.

The Quantum Foundation is Palm Beach County's largest foundation with assets of \$150 million.

2000 Summer School dates announced

The School District of Palm Beach County released the summer school schedule for 2000.

Elementary and Middle School: Five days a week, 5 hours a day, beginning Thursday, July 6-August 2,

Glades-Central Lady Raiders win Naples Invitational

The Glades-Central Lady Raiders track team won the last event to win the Naples Invitational track tournament Saturday, scoring 82 pts. to Naples' 72 1/2 pts. Charissa Anderson won five gold medals, Anita Perkins won four gold medals, Tomaka Hannan won three gold medals, Calvin

2000 (20 days).

High School: Five days a week, six and one-half hours a day, beginning June 20 and ending July 26, 2000 (26 days) High Schools will have two semesters: First semester Tuesday, June 20-Friday, July

Edwards won three gold medals, Natoya Waters won two gold medals, Jaquetta Milton won two gold medals, Shontoria Batts won two gold medals, Roshandra Jordan won one gold medal and Aigani Royal won one gold medal.

Other girls that scored points for the Raiders were:

7. Tuesday, July 4 is a holiday. Second semester begins Monday, July 10 and ends Wednesday, July 26.

Summer school locations and additional information will be provided in the near future.

Jonque Bonnett, Linor Harrison, Deakendra Weir, Raymond McDonald, Gidi Burrier, Patricia Milos and Cynichola Vickers.

Coach Jay Seider congratulated the girls on their great job, noting that fifteen teams competed in the invitational.



The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and Palm Beach County School District Area 4 gathered to recognize the winners of the "Do the Right Thing" program for January. Pictured are, front row from left, first place student winners Efrain Guzman, Rubi Nunez and Brenda Granados and PBCSO Deputy Lucy Quinones; back row, left to right, PBCSO Deputies Gary Pace and Michael Bair, Mary Evans, and Kay Zaccagnino, Area 4, PBCSO District 5 Commander Gary Frechette, and Deputy Thomas Padgett.

Students recognized for 'doing the right thing'

By Tracy Whirls

The first "Do the Right Thing" of Palm Beach County awards ceremony for January winners was held Monday at Pioneer Park Elementary School.

The "Do the Right Thing" program is sponsored by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, the Palm Beach County School District, Glades area elementary schools, and local businesses. The goal of the program is to reward and recognize youth for positive behavior and is open to children in grades K-5.

Captain Gary Frechette, District Five Commander of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, noted that the program came to the Glades area at the initiative of the Community Policing Officers, and that the sheriff has endorsed the project, commending funds from the fines and forfeitures program to help provide prizes to winners selected from each school each month.

He congratulated the winners and urged the students to adopt the three rules he himself tries to live by:

1. Always do what's right.
2. Always do your best.
3. Treat others as you would be treated.

As evidenced by the nominations submitted by their teachers, the January winners of the "Do the Right Thing" awards for Pioneer Park, Rosenwald and Belle Glade Elementary Schools have taken those rules to heart.

In nominating Demetrio Hunter as Rosenwald's first place winner, his teacher noted that when she created a "treasure chest" in her classroom to reward students; Demetrio (who has since moved) asked if he could choose a girl's toy for his little sister. "I know there were things that he would have liked to have for himself, but he made a genuine sacrifice," his teacher wrote in nominating him. "Tying for first place at Rosenwald, Rubi Nunez" teacher noted that there had recently been a death in her family, requiring her to spend several weeks in Texas. She took all of her homework with her to complete in his absence.

Brenda Granados of Belle Glade Elementary was nominated by her teacher when she found a gold ring at the school and turned it in to her teacher.

Efrain Guzman of Pioneer Park Elementary was nominated for encouraging classmates to stop arguing and get back to work.

January winners were selected from Pioneer Park Elementary, Rosenwald Elementary and Belle Glade Elementary. They included: Pioneer Park Elementary: 1st place Efrain Guzman, second place Shyria Jackson, Rosenwald Elementary: first place, (a tie) Rubi Nunez and Demetrio Hunter, second place, Codi Speed, third place Jaquay Moore and fourth place Nathaniel Purdue; Belle Glade Elementary: first place Brenda Granados, second place (a tie) Jennifer Maldonado and Susana Dominguez.

Nominees for the month of January also included: Pioneer Park: Zakeria Blount, Rosanne Hornyak, Michelle Hamon, Le

Troncoso, Joandra Barrera, Glenda Moya and Raquel Pulido. Rosenwald: Onja Harris, Tavarious Ware, Kelvin Green, Jr., Agapito Lopez, Andres Dela Fuente, Anshavious Lewis and Nataly Barrientos, Juan Lopez, Belle Glade Elementary: Maforia West, Ryan Soriano, Cecily Berrantes, Cymithia Hodge, Jesuita Monjaraz, Olivia Wilkins and

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Sports this week

Seider named Offensive Player of the Year by Black Colleges

Ja'Juan Seider, son of Jay and Cathy Seider of Belle Glade, received the SBN/Doug Williams Offensive Player of the Year Award, named for the former Washington Redskins Super Bowl Championship Quarterback, during the annual SBN Sports Black College All-American Awards banquet held Feb. 19 in Atlanta.

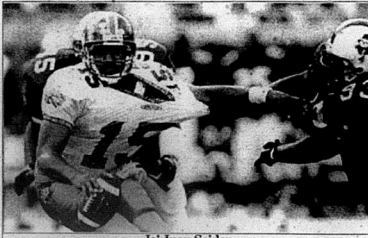
Attending the banquet with him were his parents, his uncle, Leon, and his grandmother Lula Hamilton.

Seider was also named to the All-American Black Colleges in Football 1st Team. In January, Seider was the recipient of the Jake Gaithers Award, described as the Black Colleges Heisman award.

Seider, a 1995 graduate of Glades Central Community High School, threw for 2700 yards, making 27 touchdowns and ran for 800 yards rushing for 14 touchdowns at Florida A&M University last fall, where he was nominated for these awards.

Seider will graduate in May from the University of West Virginia with a degree in sports management. While he expects to eventually become a coach himself, he hopes to be drafted by an NFL team when they visit the school later this month.

"We have two pro days, March 8 and 19, when they'll



Ja'Juan Seider

come up to the school and watch us work out and evaluate players," Seider said. Already he has been approached by the Canadian Football League, who told him to hold off signing in case he's drafted by the NFL.

A redshirt at West Virginia and for a while a back up quarterback at FAMU, all Seider wants is an opportunity to play.

"I never gave up. I sat on the bench for three years as a back up, barely played, but I never gave up," Seider said. "That goes back on my parents for keeping me in the right mind. I first started playing when I was about six years old in Pee Wee football. I was able to start early because I was so much bigger than everybody."

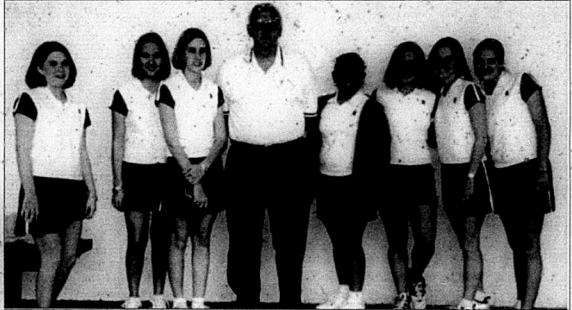
As the quarterback for the Glades Central Raiders, Seider's one regret was that

his team was unable to win a championship. "We played a lot of great athletes. There was just too much talent on one team. It started conflicts during the playoff," Seider said. Other alumni from that team include Shaun King and Dante Cuplepper.

While Seider has been compared to Steve McNair, and admired Jim Kelley as he was growing up, Seider said he admires Warren Moon because he played so long and persevered. "People said he couldn't do this and he couldn't do that," Seider observed.

At a time when so many professional athletes are making headlines for bad behavior off the field, Seider said he has always made it a point to stay out of trouble.

"I always strive to do the best. I just tell kids to hold onto their dreams, because dreams do happen."



The Glades Day School 1999-2000 tennis team includes Jennifer McMillan, Christa Stein, Kristina Sanchez, Coach Ed Wright, Juanita Triston, Jessica Irey, Brittney Langenwalter, Olivia De Castro and Lauren Sweet, not pictured.

Three from Glades Central to be honored at Hall of Fame awards banquet

Glades Central Community High School Head Football Coach Milton Watson has been named one of two High School Co-Coaches of the Year and will be honored during the annual Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame Awards Dinner March 26.

The Glades Central coach, who has led the Raiders to two consecutive 3A state football championships, shares the top coaching award with Ginny Kelly who has led Olympic Heights to four straight state volleyball titles.

In addition, two Glades Central coaches will be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Willie McDonald, assistant principal and track coach at Glades Central will be inducted for his accomplishments in track, having won five state, sixteen

regional and 22 district titles.

Also being inducted is Graham Frost of Glades Central for his accomplishments in girls basketball. In an 11-year span, Frost won 1 state, 5 sectional, 7 regional and 9 district titles with a record of 266 wins and 27 losses. Also during the awards, nominees for Amateur Athlete of the Year, High School Athlete of the Year, College Coach and athlete of the year and inductees including Billy Burns, Eaton, Jamie McNear Reese, Norm Price and Ron Ream will be honored.

The Awards dinner will be held at the Palm Beach Gardens Marriott, beginning with a reception at 5:30 p.m. For more information or to reserve tickets phone Coach Jay Seider at 993-4400.

Blue Chip Basketball Shootout March 12 at UCF

Blue Chip Girls Basketball Shootout is coming to the University of Central Florida on Sunday, March 12. Registration is between 8-8:30 a.m. The games will begin at 9 a.m.

This one-day Shootout is a high exposure event designed for the student athlete who aspires to play at the college level. Each athlete will have the opportunity to compete against quality competition during the NCAA "live" period for college recruiters. The athletes will play three games on teams that are coached by area basketball coaches. For additional information or an application, please call Steve Morton at (407)-359-8534.

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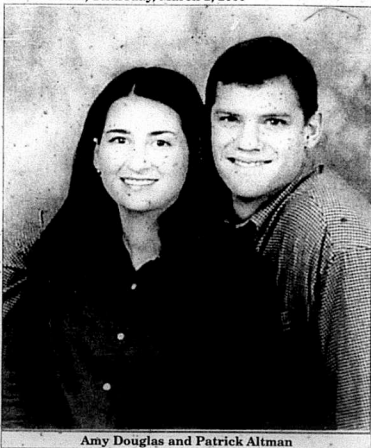
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Amy Douglas and Patrick Altman

Douglas-Altman to wed

Mr. and Mrs. William Douglas of Pahokee announce the engagement of their daughter, Amy Rebecca Douglas to Patrick Thomas Altman son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Altman of Belle Glade. A June wedding is planned.

Miss Douglas graduated from Liberty University and is a substitute teacher for the Palm Beach County School District.

Mr. Altman will graduate from the University of Pennsylvania in May. The couple will reside in Santa Clara, Calif. where Mr. Altman will be employed at Healtheon/Web MD Corporation.

Obituary

Nickly L. Day, 29, formerly of Belle Glade, died Sunday, Feb. 27, 2000 at his residence in Eustis.

A native of Pahokee, Miss Day moved to Eustis from Belle Glade in 1985. She graduated from Eustis High School in 1989 and attended First Baptist Church of Eustis.

Miss Day is survived by her parents, Mike and Pat Day, and a brother, Brian Day, all of Eustis; her maternal grandmother, Lucille Day of Rushville, Ill. and her paternal grandmother, Jean Lane of Belle Glade.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 1 at Harden-Pauli Funeral Home in Eustis. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: Florida Hospital Diabetes Center Foundation, 2520 North Orange Avenue, Suite 102, Attn: Barbara Joswick, Orlando, FL 32804.

Former Belle Glade resident appointed to Tampa Palms Community Development District

Former Belle Glade resident Curtis Stokes, a Nations Bank vice president has been appointed to the Tampa Palms Community Development District.

Mr. Stokes, the son of Katie Perry of Belle Glade is a 1986 graduate of Glades Central Community High School.

A resident of Wyndham, who has been vice president and small business relationship manager with Nations Bank since 1995, was selected from a field of five applicants to fill the vacancy on the five-member special tax-

ing authority board.

According to his resume, Mr. Stokes has routinely ranked in the top 10 percent of loan officers in Florida.

He received his master's degree in business administration from Nova University, Fort Lauderdale in 1993 and his bachelor of arts degree in 1990 from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

Mr. Stokes will be responsible for helping to manage the district's financial affairs.

Signs of 'Springtime'

Light one Candle

By Rev. Thomas J. McSweeney
Director, The Christophers

The word "Lent" comes from an early Saxon word for "springtime." It's a good image to keep in mind during these next forty days leading up to Easter.

Lent has a way of bringing you down to earth: "Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return." At the same time, Lent challenges you to spend six weeks in an attempt to achieve utter honesty about the state of your soul. In the process, you open yourself to a spiritual springtime—a time for new life and the potential for personal growth.

Spiritual growth is measured differently for each individual, but ultimately it depends on your personal desire to link your own will with the will of God, the Father of all life. To get yourself started, try these three steps in your reflection.

First, study your daily actions, especially those activities that demonstrate your sense of commitment to those things that matter to you. They may include your family life, the way you go about your job, spend your leisure time or get involved with neighborhood concerns. Behind the priorities you give these activities is your will. Honest reflection will reveal that you cannot achieve all your goals on your own, even with the greatest effort of will.

At this second stage, you begin to see more clearly how your conscience actually negotiates what you want to do with what you actually do. Conscience motivates will into action. For example, you recognize within yourself a yearning for spiritual truth. You cannot reach it yourself. At that moment you know you need God if you are to attain everything for which your heart aches.

For the third level of reflection, consider carefully the things religion has to say to your conscience. What does religious truth say about your deepest yearning for truth? What about the possibility that God can enable you to move beyond yourself to share in that which perfects you own?

When you know you cannot become what you most want to become by yourself alone, you can open your heart, mind and soul to God's grace-filled intervention. Recognizing the pure gift of faith in God's power to

bring fulfillment is the final step. Your will and the Father's will be come one.

At Gethsemane, on the night before He died, Jesus prayed,

"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not what I want but what you want...Your will be done." (Matthew 26:39, 42)

Your challenge is to make this your prayer for Lent and for life. Ask for the grace and courage to act upon the will of the Father as your own—however humanly impossible it may seem.

Then, you will say, "I forgive you," to 'someone you have never had the strength to face squarely. You will take the risk of performing an extraordinary act of generosity and selflessness. You will find greater reasons than your own satisfaction to make a difference. You will trust and hope in the Lord rather than despair. You will become more like the one you love—holly as your God is holy.

This year, welcome the fresh, beautiful growth, not just in the natural world around you, but within yourself. Join Jesus in praying those words He spoke in the Garden of Gethsemane in that long-ago springtime: Choose God's Will and you choose life.

For a free copy of the Christophers News Note, Seeings of God Seas, write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

The Sun
(561) 996-4404



Amber Elaine Fulenwider and Burk Hiram Parsons

Fulenwider-Parsons to wed

Mr. and Mrs. Jack R. Fulenwider of Acworth, Ga., announce the engagement of their daughter, Amber Elaine Fulenwider to Burk Hiram Parsons. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert King of Sarasota.

Amber is a graduate of Glades Day School and the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education and

minor in Business Finance. She is attending the PRO-TEACH Master's Program at UF.

Burk is a graduate of Trinity College with a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies. He is attending Reformed Theological Seminary and is on staff with Ligonier Ministries. They will wed on July 1, 2000 in Sarasota and reside in Orlando.



Why, it's Steve Rice!

Happy Birthday, With Love From Your Family!

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Brucewell celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 9, 2000. They reside in Pahokee, FL. They were married in McCray, GA on February 9, 1940.

Juanita is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S.F. Lowery. She was born in Dublin, GA in 1916.

Earl is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Brucewell. He was born in Glenwood, GA in 1916.

Earl and Juanita have three children, Gwen Levis of Wellington, FL, Carley Mackey of Okaloosa, FL, and Ronald Brucewell of Belle Glade, FL.

They have four grandchildren, Janey Levis, Stewart Levis, Leigh Burnett and Marcie Bishop.

They have nine great-grandchildren, Paul, Bruce and Scott Levis, Stephen, Erin and Jason Burnett, Robby West, Kyle and Kayla Bishop.

Juanita and Earl are members of the Canal Point Baptist Church, FAFF Club and the Pahokee Chamber of Commerce. Juanita was an active member of the Pahokee Garden Club and the Auxiliary of Everglades Regional Medical Center before they closed in March of 1998.



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Funeral 130
Lost 140
Give Away 140
Garage/Yard Sale 140
Special Notices 150
500 Numbers 160

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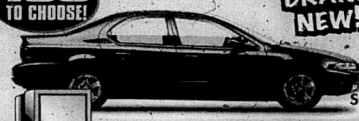
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